



# Harpenden

## Forum

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Harpenden Town Council

September 1980

No. 13

### THE COMMON IS YOURS

*p70 for  
Society Adv*

HARPENDEN'S glorious Common, stretching down to the very heart of the Town, along with the High Street and other Greens, is what gives our town its unique character. And it belongs to you, the citizens of Harpenden.

It was only in the early 1930s that the then Urban District Council was given the opportunity to purchase the freehold of the greater part of the Common from the then surviving member of the Lawes-Wittewronge family, who had been Lords of the Manor since 1642. Subsequent additions, including Hatching Green Common, were acquired later, while a fairly small area of West Common remains in private ownership.

The rights of the public to access to the Common for "air and exercise" were confirmed by an Order made by the Minister of Agriculture under the Law of Property Act 1925, which also laid down certain limitations and conditions to protect the amenities for the majority. The various proscribed "offences" were set out in the March 1978 issue of this newsletter, the responsibility for administration of the Common having passed over to the Town Council when the old U.D.C. ceased to exist in 1974.

Since then the Town Council has carried out its responsibility for the management of the Common with care and thoroughness. Its Commons and Greens Committee, under the Chairmanship of Councillor Stella Curl (now also Mayoress of St. Albans City and District) has a budget for the current year of £22,000, the greater part of which is spent on employing staff of the District Council's Parks Department to carry out work, including grass cutting, scrub clearance, tree felling and planting – and litter clearance every weekend.

The Town Council's Commons Warden, Doug. Weston, supervises the programme and the Council is much indebted to the District's parks superintendent, Barry Jackson, and his team for the keen and efficient way they play their part in maintaining the condition and the beauty of the Common – and the High Street and other Greens.

Apart from regular maintenance, other jobs need to be done. Last year alone, for instance, the Town Council planted some 80 trees. The "Harpenden Sign" on the Common was renovated at a cost of £350. The Christmas Lights in the Town centre come under the Commons and Greens heading and last year this took nearly £600 of the Committee's budget. The Harpenden Common Golf Club Steward's cottage is the property of the Council, and necessary repairs and painting this year have taken £2,500. Just recently the new footpath alongside Bull Road has been provided and paid for not by the Highway Authority, but out of the Town Council's budget for the Common.

A good slice of the total Commons expenditure is met by the rents for fairs and ice cream licence, from the sale of the hay crop and from the rents paid by the Harpenden Cricket Club, the Bamville Cricket Club, the Rovers Football Club and of course especially from the Harpenden Common Golf Club. On top of their financial contribution, the Golf Club – and, on a smaller scale, the others – carry out admirably the maintenance of the large part of the Common they occupy. And, by the way, the agreement and the Order provide that members of the public may not obstruct the use of the Common by the golfers, but the contrary also applies. It's a case of give and take.

In addition to all this help from user organisations, we are fortunate in our town to have so lively a local amenity body as the Harpenden Society, which continues to keep a watching brief on the Common, swift to draw the Town Council's attention to anything that seems amiss. They have also contributed additional trees to improve landscaping.

The Town Council expresses its thanks – and we hope we can say also your thanks – to all who are involved in their various ways with keeping the Common – your Common – in as good a condition as we can. We hope you will continue to use it well, and to enjoy it.

# HERE TO HELP

by A. J. Braund, C.A.B. Organiser

"Whatever your problem, we are here to help" is the title to one of the leaflets currently distributed by Citizens Advice Bureaux. It is indeed a comforting thought for those who are worried, in doubt, or simply do not know where to turn to get an answer to something that is on their mind — the more so as anyone who seeks assistance from a local Citizens Advice Bureau knows that the visit is undertaken in strict confidence and nothing will be disclosed outside unless the caller gives his/her specific approval for an outside authority to be consulted.

There are now upwards of 800 Citizens Advice Bureaux throughout the country and Harpenden is proud that it has its own — invited here by the Town Council, who pay the rent and make a grant, but do not in any way interfere with the Bureau's complete independence. The Bureau is situated in Harpenden Hall, Southdown Road, and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Its telephone number is Harpenden 69387.

The many problems on which help has been given over the recent past include uncertainties about State benefits through the D.H.S.S.; employment — and especially redundancy problems; queries on Income Tax; shoppers' and retailers' rights and responsibilities when buying/selling consumer goods; family problems including adoptions, guidance on will making, divorce procedures, and assistance following on a death in the family; neighbour problems; housing, rent and rebate queries; legal aid entitlements and many more.

The voluntary interviewing staff are dedicated to help you and devote much of their spare time in training so that they will be of maximum possible assistance to you when you come to see them.

"No problem is too great or too small" is another of our slogans — so, if you have a problem on your mind please remember that help is at hand for you at your local Citizens Advice Bureau. No appointment is necessary — just knock on the door and come in — we are here to help.

## FINE FARE CAR PARK

We have been asked to define the rights of the public in the car park provided in the Fine Fare Supermarket scheme.

The car park has been provided by Fine Fare and is their property, but the agreement with the District Council provides that it is available for use by members of the public and accordingly members of the public have the *right* to make use of it.

## PAYING RATES LOCALLY

Ratepayers are reminded that cheques in payment of rates may be deposited in the box provided in the District Council's Enquiry Office at Harpenden Hall.

## COMMEMORATIVE SEATS

Following a hint from the Town Council's Commons and Greens Committee, the Harpenden Cricket Club has arranged to replace two commemorative seats near the cricket area. The British Legion is placing a seat on Church Green in memory of their former President, Frank Popplewell. The solicitors acting for the relatives of the late Emily Louise Priestman have asked the Council to accept the gift of a seat to be placed in Leyton Green.

Communications to:

The Editor, Harpenden Forum,  
Town Clerk's Office, Harpenden



Harpenden — its common and greens, its "village" conservation area, its trees, its surrounding Green Belt — make it a good place to live. But its charm is no accident: it has been preserved against all the odds. You can show your appreciation and have a voice in its future by belonging to the Harpenden Society. Enrolment forms from the History Centre or the Public Library.

## UNEQUALLED IN THIS AREA!

Your savings can earn this record interest rate and still allow you prompt withdrawals

**11.00% = 15.71%** \*P.A. GROSS

\* If you pay Income Tax at 30%. INVEST FROM £1  
Call in at your local

## HARPENDEN & DISTRICT BUILDING SOCIETY

14 STATION ROAD, HARPENDEN. TEL: 4904 & 61892

Member of the Building Societies Association. Authorised for Investments by Trustees.

## FROM CAR MENDING TO YOGA

The Further Education Centre in Victoria Road is again running an extensive series of courses for adults. Subjects range from Car Maintenance to Lace-making and English Literature to Yoga. The classes, which meet at the Centre and in local schools, start in late September and enquiries about joining should be made to the Organiser at the Centre: telephone 62040. Anyone over 16 is welcome and there are specially reduced fees for under-19s and pensioners. A leaflet, "Courses for Adults", giving full details, is available from the Public Library or the Centre.

## ST. GEORGES' SCHOOL FOOTPATH

The Department of the Environment has announced that a local Public Inquiry is to be held into the County Council proposal for diversion of the Footpath No. 20 across the St. George's school fields.

The Town Council has heard also from the County Council that the Headmaster is no longer insisting on the diversion path being fenced. This seems to make it possible for the County Council to revert to their previous proposal, that an unfenced footpath should pass in front of the two pavilions, since the reason given for the subsequent Order was that the fencing would cut off the pavilion from the cricket field.

The Town Council's Footpaths Committee considered that, if the 1980 proposal is now withdrawn and the County reverts to its 1979 plan, this would provide a pleasant route from an amenity point of view and would at least take the path some distance away from the properties in Grant Gardens and Maldon Court. If the County confirms this intention, and the other objectors can accept this compromise, it could even be that the cost of a Public Inquiry could be avoided.

## CROSS LANE ALLOTMENTS

The new 3.6 acre allotment site at the top of Cross Lane is expected to open for allotments to be taken up within the next month or so. The site will be administered for the Town Council by the South Harpenden Allotments and Gardens Society, whose Secretary is Mr. E. A. Allen, of 55 Sibley Avenue, Harpenden — telephone Harpenden 2348. Any applications for plots should be made to him.

## BEWARE OF PUDDLES

Flooding in the Lower High Street during recent months has caused large puddles and the Town Council has asked the District to take preventative action. Meanwhile, car drivers are reminded that they may be liable if due to negligent driving through flood water the person or clothing of any individual is damaged. It is up to the person concerned to seek redress in the Courts. Please drive slowly if you see water in this busy street.

## AMENBURY LANE CAR PARK

The Chairman of the Town Council has been approached by a number of residents regarding the anticipated consequences of the District Council's proposal to charge for admission to Amenbury Lane car park.

During the recent temporary closure of the car park for resurfacing, very considerable congestion was caused by parking in adjacent roads and it is assumed that the charge for parking is likely to have a somewhat similar effect.

The Council has passed the letters referred to on to the District with a renewed recommendation that part of the car park should be reserved for free short-term parking for shoppers and for visitors to the sporting facilities in the Park.

## TAXI RANK — HIGH STREET

It looks as if the removal of the taxi rank from Church Green to the High Street, proposed by the Town Council two years ago, will at last take place. The Police, County Council and District Council have all now agreed that the site should be in front of Barclays Bank rather than the previously suggested site in front of the White Lion public house.

## SOUTHDOWN TRAFFIC SCHEME

The length of Southdown Road linking up with Walkers Road and to the south of the grassed triangle has now been closed up at the end nearest Cravells Road by Order approved by the Department of the Environment, and the circulation of traffic by the mini-roundabout in front of the entrance to the Fine Fare car park is in force. But the final treatment of the closed road and the grassed area has still been under discussion.

The District Council called a meeting on 9th July, 1980, attended by District Councillors and Officers, residents of Southdown Road and Cravells Road and representatives of Harpenden Society and of the Town Council. Various alternatives to the scheme proposed by the Architects and Highways Departments were considered, including the Option 2 shown at the Consultative Exhibition held when the Fine Fare plans also were on view. The Southdown Road occupiers stressed the need for the size of the grass area to be preserved but also wanted to establish the right to park their own vehicles outside their own properties. To ensure this right has been found by the District Officers to have both legal and financial difficulties.

Because of this the Town Council's Highways Advisory Panel put forward the simple suggestion to District that this length of road should be left as a one-way street in the direction towards Walkers Road, and with "Turn Left" sign at the junction with that road. This, it was felt, would ease traffic moving from South Harpenden towards the St. Albans Road and would leave parking as it was formerly. It would prevent the parking on both sides which is the present unsightly outcome of the closure at one end.

## HARPENDEN INSURANCE SERVICES

for

Motor — Fire — Accident — Life

Phone Peter Hale 63672/68184  
(Home) 64067

139 Southdown Road  
Harpenden

## HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor John Slater

Vice-Chairman: Councillor M. C. Parsons

Telephone  
Harpenden  
5884  
63654  
63564  
5251

### North Ward

W. E. A. Crowe, 84 Townsend Lane  
Mrs. F. A. Greenall, 25 Haddon Court  
M. C. Parsons, 6 Medlows, Roundwood Park  
F. S. Walker, 23 Westfield Drive

### South Ward

Mrs. G. M. F. Aspinall, C.C., 6 Oakfield Road  
I. J. Fulton, 11 Southdown Road  
K. Jenkins, 14 Burywick  
D. R. Murray, 22 Greenway

### East Ward

Mrs. S. M. Chipperfield, 7 Carisbrooke Road  
A. W. Hunt, 2 Ashcroft Close  
V. H. I. Salter, 57 Milford Hill  
S. J. Vass, 10 Milford Hill

### West Ward

Mrs. S. M. Curl, 34 Haddon Court  
R. W. Meldrum, 7 Greenway  
Mrs. M. B. Parker, 59 Overstone Road  
J. M. Slater, 39 Hollybush Lane

3541  
4135  
61701  
61663  
2916  
5619  
2279  
61298  
3449  
60022  
62758  
60389

Council Office: Harpenden Hall, Southdown Road.

Office Hours: Daily 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Tel. 68278

Town Clerk: J. H. F. Fryd

Citizens  
Advice  
Bureau

### CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU at Harpenden Hall

### "MEET YOUR COUNCILLOR"

on the  
1st Saturday of each month  
at

Harpenden Hall, Southdown Road  
10 a.m. – 12 noon

Councillors available for personal  
discussion of any matters you wish  
to raise concerning Harpenden.

Tel. Harpenden 69387 (St. Albans 55269)

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thursdays: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

A completely independent service  
offering free and confidential  
information and advice.

### TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

to which the Public are invited

MONDAY, OCT. 27, 7.30 pm

MONDAY, DEC. 8, 7.30 pm

in the Council Chamber,  
Harpenden Hall

### LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

EXHIBITIONS – 10 am to 4 pm  
at the History Centre, Harpenden Hall

Nov. 1st – Clothing and Costume

Dec. 6th – Christmas Past

"HARPENDEN AS IT WAS"



**City and  
District of  
St Albans**

**FOR INFORMATION ON DISTRICT COUNCIL SERVICES  
CONTACT HARPENDEN HALL (Harpenden 60106)**

or visit between 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Monday – Thursday  
(4.30 p.m. close on Friday)

**LEAFLETS AVAILABLE ON HOME IMPROVEMENTS, RENT/RATE  
REBATES ETC. AND ADVICE ON OTHER COUNCIL TOPICS**